

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Council President Cathy Kernen.

ROLL CALL:

President Cathy Kernen, PPT Craig Farr, Valarie Beckius, Damien Brewster, Kathy Costello, Marion McKinney, and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins. VP Gary Hoffman arrived at 6:37 pm.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Engineer David Leh, Solicitor Rebecca Geiser, Manager Tamara Twardowski and Police Chief John Barnshaw.

MOTION to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2026 meeting by McKinney. Seconded by Costello.

Motion carries 6-0.

The Mayor read the Land Use Statement –

“We acknowledge that indigenous peoples and nations, including the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Delaware Nation, Eelūnaapèewii Lahkèewiit (Delaware Nation at Moraviantown), Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and Munsee-Delaware Nation (Ontario) have stewarded through generations land and waterways on what is now known as Collegeville Borough. Our residences, businesses, organizations, and institutions rest on Lenapehoking, their ancestral and spiritual homeland. Collegeville Borough, in the State of Pennsylvania, honors and respects the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land.”

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION by McKinney to approve checks numbered 911-940, reflecting two payrolls, ACH transfers and payments in the amount of \$212,708.85. Seconded by Farr.

Motion carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

C. Kernen advised that Tamara, Gary and she met on July 2, 2026 with developer Brad Sinrod and realtor Hollie Marcelli who worked with Royersford Borough to keep the small-town charm in Royersford. They are interested in potentially working on a project in Collegeville to do the same thing, and we will connect them with Ursinus College to discuss working on the project.

CPVRPC:

V. Beckius advised as part of regional planning, there is always a lot of discussion on the importance of trails, and there was discussion on the annual trail challenge. This year, in addition to visiting trails, this year's challenge has a historical twist, in that they encourage you to visit four

historical sites throughout our region. She explained they thought it would be great to get outside and learn about some local history. The historical sites include: (1) John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove which has a collection of the life and art of John James Audubon; (2) Pennypacker Mills where Samuel Penny lived in the 1900's; (3) Peter Wentz Farmstead where you can see the home as it would have appeared in 1777 when General George Washington and his staff used it as a headquarters; and (4) Pottsgrove Manor where John Potts resided, who was a local businessman in the area, had a lot ironworks and who was involved in local politics as the mayor of Pottstown.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS:

Minutes dated 5/22/2026 and financial reports as of 6/23/2026 were received from both entities. M. McKinney advised that CTMA voted on the recommendation of the finance committee to borrow financing through an authority and that CTMA would be willing to take the loan for the interconnection with North Penn with the agreement that the boroughs would pay back the authority. She further reported that public works tabled discussions on changes to the by-laws. However, there was discussion on whether to change public works to an authority and whether it would be an authority by itself or with CTMA. She noted they agreed to hire Paul Mullen as he's already done a lot of the work in 2015 when an Authority was previously considered; and he will attend this month's meeting to discuss the pros and cons of each.

LPVRS: T. Stagliano report that one (1) EDU was approved and 55 EDU, Chapter 94, letters were approved. She further reported that they started a multi-million-dollar project to rehab six (6) primary clarified tanks a few months ago, and started with two (2) tanks so they could keep four (4) in service. She further reported that before the tanks were put back in service, cracking on the sides where new coating was observed, and the contractor has taken responsibility for the damage. She noted the terms for proceeding were reviewed and agreed upon between Gilmore and Associates, the manager and our solicitor.

PARKS:

K. Costello advised that she and T. Twardowski met with the Montgomery County Planning Commission on June 22nd to review the complete draft of the Parks Plan, and a final draft was received on July 2nd. She further advised she met with the park committee to discuss the proposed improvement to Waterworks Park, and the priority is to install a crosswalk on First Avenue to provide a safer connection for the townhouse community to the park. She further advised there is a meeting scheduled with General Recreation, our playground vendor, to discuss potential playground improvements if the Borough receives any grants which Tamara has submitted. She also reported that Damien has been working on addressing the drainage issue between the basketball court and the baseball field. D. Brewster reported he contacted a few contractors to submit proposals to address the drainage issue but only received a proposal from one of the contractors. He noted that the quote was a little under \$10,000 which is within the budget, seemed reasonable, and was from an experienced contractor. However, they are not moving forward with the work just yet as it's not a good time for grass to grow, and we don't want a mud pit out there. He noted they would go with the recommendation from the contractor as to when to start the work so they can get grass to grow which would be sometime in the fall.

K. Costello reported that Trappe Borough is having fireworks to celebrate America's 250th this Saturday, July 11th at 9 pm. You will be able to see the fireworks from multiple locations but the best location will be Augustus Lutheran church. However, parking at the church is limited, but you can park at any of the municipal lots. Trappe Fire Company #1 will be selling hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and refreshments, and this is a smoke-free, alcohol-free event. T. Stagliano advised that a resident approached her and said to tell Kathy that she is doing an amazing job working on the parks.

PERSONNEL: C. Kernan advised there were three (3) applications received for the vacant seat on Borough Council and interviews have been scheduled for July 18th.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: G. Hoffmann reported that there will be a change in EMS response for Collegeville. He explained that when Trappe closed its doors, and Freedom took over, the coverage was split between Friendship and Lower Providence. Now that Friendship has moved an ambulance into Trappe, they will be providing the primary EMS response to all of Collegeville Borough, with Lower Providence as secondary. He also reported that they met with the Rotary Club who are interested in having a longer Halloween parade and plan to work with Ursinus College on the parade. The committee thinks it's a good idea but has some concerns especially since Ursinus has not reached out to us yet. He reported that most of the trees on Carmen Drive have been taken care of with the exception of 144 Carmen which has affected the sidewalk and 138 Carmen Drive of which the owner is aware. T. Twardowski explained that 138 Carmen Drive was sold at Sheriff's Sale, and she talked with the new owner who is willing to take care of the trees but only after the property is in his name. The deed transfer could take up to sixty days. She also explained that the Borough can take down the trees per Solicitor Geiser, but it would be a cost to the taxpayers and then we would have to try to recoup the funds. In response to a question from C. Farr, T. Twardowski explained that both properties signed for the certified mail so the Borough can move forward with repairing the sidewalk. However, we are trying to give the owner at 138 Carmen Drive a little more time to resolve the matter. G. Hoffman advised they will keep this matter on the agenda every month, under old business, until they are resolved. G. Hoffman reported no parking signs will be installed and clear lines painted to resolve the parking issues on East Third Avenue as well and so that the police are able to issue tickets once the signs are installed and lines painted.

EMS Primary Change: T. Twardowski requested a motion to change our EMS provider.

MOTION by McKinney to approve Friendship as the primary EMS provider. Seconded by Hoffman.

Motion carries 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

ENGINEER:

D. Leh reported that the concrete work on Sixth Avenue should be completed by the end of the week, and the paving will be completed mid to late August. He further reported that residents are

completing their curbing work in Collegeville Crossing, and then the contractor will be in to complete the micro-resurfacing which will probably be mid to late August as well.

SOLICITOR: Nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER:

Resolution 2026-07 – CFA Multimodal Grant - T. Twardowski advised she would like to reapply for a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in the amount of \$1,464,000 from the Commonwealth Finance Authority to be used for Pedestrian Facility improvements to the 400 block of Main Street. She noted this is a non-matching grant, and the application requires a resolution. She further noted an application for this grant was submitted last year but did not get approved.

MOTION by Brewster to approve Resolution 2026-07 authorizing a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant application for \$1,464,000 for pedestrian facility improvements to the 400 block of Main Street. Seconded by Farr.

Motion carries 7-0.

Sign Ordinance Update: T. Twardowski advised the Planning Commission reviewed the draft ordinance and had some questions that need to be answered by the Solicitor before making a recommendation. She outlined some of the major changes to the ordinance which include allowing traditional sign sizes in the shopping center district and allowing electronic messaging signs in the institutional district, the shopping center district and the M&I district. She noted the Planning Commission did not want to allow electronic messaging signs in the Main Street district with the exception of institutional which would be the municipal building, the church, the college and the fire company. She advised those are the main changes, and once finalized and recommended by the Planning Commission, she will submit it back to the Council. In response to a question from V. Beckius, T. Twardowski explained that there was no final recommendation on allowing electronic messaging signs in the park but it will be further reviewed, and if allowed, there could be restrictions on turning the sign off at a certain time so as not to affect residential neighbors adjacent to the parks. M. McKinney advised she believes it is a good ideal to allow them in the parks.

POLICE:

Chief Barnshaw presented his report for the month of June. He noted that he already reported on the warehouse fire earlier in the meeting. In addition, he reported that there was a full school year with bus patrol, and over 230 citations were approved.

Fire Police assistance was requested from Trappe Borough for their fireworks on Saturday, July 11th from 7-10 pm.

MOTION by McKinney to approve the Fire Police request. Seconded by Costello.

Motion carries 7-0.

In response to a question from C. Kernan, Chief Barnshaw reported that Patrol Officer Teddy Falnes is recovering from an ankle injury he sustained while deployed and is in rehabilitation. Chief Barnshaw noted that Officer Davis sent a care package to him.

MAYOR: Mayor Wright-Riggins reported that there was a ceremony held on Juneteenth celebrating and recognizing the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. He noted that he and the mayor of Trappe Borough attended along with approximately 30-40 community members. Also in attendance was Reverend Doug Banks from St. Luke's Fellowship Church who is the 5th great grandson of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings who was an enslaved woman that accompanied Thomas Jefferson on several trips to Paris and had six children with him. He noted that Reverend Banks was featured on CNN news and another channel along with members of Thomas Jefferson's family, and the most important message was the position of what the 4th of July means to people. He also reported that Vince Raffeo passed away and wanted to acknowledge his contributions to the community particularly to the Collegeville Rotary Club. He noted that in his years of service, Mr. Raffeo would call him once a week just to see how he was doing as he did many people in the community. He also visited our police department and fire company on a regular basis and was known to many as "Uncle Vince". He presented Council members with a challenge coin from the police department and Rotary Club in remembrance of Mr. Raffeo and what he meant to our community, our police department and the Rotary Club. He explained that Mr. Raffeo adhered to the four-way test which includes: (1) is it the truth; (2) is it fair to all concerned; (3) will it build good will and better friendships; and (4) will it be beneficial to all concerned. He asked Chief Barnshaw to provide an explanation of a challenge coin. Chief Barnshaw explained challenge coins were originally rooted in the military and were traditionally presented by commanders recognize outstanding performance. However, today, they have expanded well beyond the military into police departments, fire departments, corporate businesses and civic groups.

FIRE:

Assistant Chief Penuel summarized the Fire Company's activities for June.

AMBULANCE: T Twardowski noted there was a report from Friendship Ambulance for the month included in the Council's meeting packet. In response to a concern that was expressed by V. Beckius, T. Twardowski advised we will no longer print the ambulance reports for the packet.

MOTION by McKinney to accept all the reports. Seconded by Brewster.

Motion carries 7-0.

JUNIOR COUNCIL: No report as neither junior councilpeople were in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Traupman expressed concern about whether the Borough has ordinances regarding waste disposal from industrial or commercial operations and referenced pollution of drinking water in other areas. T. Twardowski advised that CTMA has ordinances in place that have been recommended by LPVRS. Mr. Traupman noted he would ask the question at the next CTMA meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:47 p.m.